

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 228799

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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S/S - LREDDY

NSC:OAKLEY

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P 152342Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 228799

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO SARKIS

1. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO ELIAS SARKIS WHICH SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO HIM IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS TAKING OFFICE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE - DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I CONGRATULATE YOU UPON YOUR TAKING OFFICE AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF LEBANON. YOUR ASSUMPTION OF THIS HIGH OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES, AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME IN LEBANON'S HISTORY GIVES NEW HOPE TO ALL WHO WISH TO SEE A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BESET YOUR COUNTRY IN A PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC MANNER CONSONANT WITH LEBANON'S TRADITIONS.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY

FOR THE SUFFERING WHICH HAS OCCURRED. MY
GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO BE HELPFUL IN WHATEVER FURTHER
WAY IT CAN TO ALLEVIATE THIS TRAGIC SITUATION. IN THE
FUTURE, AS IN THE PAST, LEBANON CAN COUNT UPON UNITED STATES
SUPPORT FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND

NATIONAL UNITY, AS WELL AS OUR DEDICATION TO THE GOAL OF
A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE FOR ALL STATES AND PEOPLES OF
THE MIDDLE EAST.

SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD - UNQUOTE.

3. IN DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT
THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO HIS MAKING IT PUBLIC. ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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